

April 5, 2017



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN WALTON CELEBRATES NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK – THE FLORIDA WAY

Contact:

Brandi Gill
Brandi.Gill@flhealth.gov
(850) 892-8015 Ext. 1136

DeFuniak Springs, Fla. – This week is National Public Health Week and the Florida Department of Health in Walton is giving Floridians an inside look at some of the careers behind public health and the dedicated professionals who do them. Each day, the department will highlight a different area of public health including epidemiology, emergency preparedness and response, environmental health and public health nursing. These fields and many more help the department carry out our mission to promote, protect and improve the health of Florida residents and visitors.

“I want to take the time to thank every Public Health worker for the jobs they perform. It takes all of us working together to keep our community safe and well,” said Holly Holt, DOH-Walton Health Officer.

Last year, the department was the first state in the nation to receive national accreditation as an integrated department of health through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Accreditation by PHAS signifies that the department, including the state health office and all 67 county health departments, is meeting national standards for ensuring essential public health services are provided in the community.

For the next two years, the department will focus on several key areas to improve health in our state including increasing childhood vaccination rates, achieving health equity in all communities, developing a high quality trauma service, reducing HIV infection rates, reducing infant mortality rates, decreasing inhaled nicotine use and decreasing licensure processing time for health care professionals.

DOH-Walton is working to lessen the effect of chronic disease by educating the public on Diabetes Prevention. Through the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), sixteen weekly classes are offered to empower individuals to change their lifestyle such as eating healthier, reducing stress, increasing physical activity. The program also includes group support from others who share common goals and challenges. The goal of the class is to reduce one’s risk of developing type 2 diabetes and of having a heart attack or stroke.

Use #ThankAPublicHealthPro on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to recognize a public health professional in your area during National Public Health Week.

For more information about National Public Health Week, please visit www.nphw.org. For more information about the different programs and services offered at DOH-Walton please visit <http://walton.floridahealth.gov/> or call (850) 892-8015.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

.